Concordia University Pagan Society October 2001

Tidings

Meet CUPS

Come join CUPS at its monthly General Meetings. We'll hold discussions on a variety of topics of interest to Pagan folk. Come out and contribute or just listen.

Next meeting:

Time:
Friday, November 2nd at 7:00pm

Place:
Campus Ministry (Room Z-105)
2090 Mackay (downtown campus)
Please call (514) 848-7441 for info.

We will be discussing up-coming events, discussing the possibility of up-coming ritual, and generally how to make this the best year CUPS has had to date!

Workshop (held after meeting, presented by Dave): Mythology

Editorial

A little of this, A little of that...

As you may have noticed, Tidings is undergoing a little bit of rearranging and housecleaning. Don't worry about the changes... they're all for the better!

Should you have any commentary or suggestions on what's happening with the newsletter, feel free to contact me at cups@fastmail.ca. Please put TIDINGS or TIDINGS EDITOR in the subject heading.

Blessed Be!

How to Reach Us

At Our Office
7141 Sherbrooke St. West
Room SC 03-3 (Loyola)

Office Hours
Every Thursday 6:00pm – 9:00pm
(Or by appointment)

By Phone
(514) 848-7441 Leave a message

By E-Mail
cups@fastmail.ca

By Mail
1455 de Maisonneuve West
Suite H-637-3
Montreal, QC, H3G 1M8

Arachne's Web

Here you'll find a few ways that one can do some networking, meet some like-minded individuals, or just hang out and catch a few flies. ☺

* Join us at cupagans@yahoogroups.com (an electronic mailing list for CUPS). It's a great place to get the latest news about CUPS and to get into some very lively discussions.

To subscribe, send a message to: cupagans-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
To unsubscribe, send a blank email to: cupagans-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com
To post a message, send the email to: cupagans@yahoogroups.com

* The next Pagan Café will occur Monday, October 1st at 7 PM, at Ciné Express, 1926 Ste-Catherine Ouest, (near metro Guy).
Why? Because we need a place where we can meet & discuss issues relevant to the community at large. Pagans of all paths are welcome! Especially those of you who just want to learn more about topics relating to Paganism. We'll be discussing a different issue every other week.
Topic: Coming Out of the Broom Closet

The group will be recognizable by a small (8 1/2 x 11) sign on the table on which Pagan CAFE Paien will be written, with a pentagram. There will be a small cauldron on the table with a candle burning in it.

This bilingual event is not sponsored or supported by any particular group.

* The Montreal Pagan Resource Centre provides a reading-only library, for pagans and non-pagans alike, to consult. A pot of coffee and tea is always available, as is contact information about professionals & artisans within the city. The Centre is a meeting place for all traditions within the pagan community of Montreal, a place for teaching, sharing and learning.
Further information, events schedules & volunteer forms available online at http://www.mprc.paganuniverse.com.
Location: 1928 St. Catherine Street West
E-mail: crmp_mprc@yahoo.ca

Please recycle when done reading

Brewing in the Cauldron

Like to know what's happening at CUPS and around Montreal? Why not take a look and see...

October 3rd Grove Full Moon Ritual
Location: World Beat Café, 1590 St. Laurent Blvd.
Hosted by Nancy and Rita. October being in the sign of Libra, the ritual will be about Love, Peace and Harmony
Time: 7:30 p.m.

****October 12th CUPS Movie Night****
"Discovering Witchcraft: A Journey Through the Elements" by Janet and Stewart Farrar and Gavin Bone (87 minutes)
Location: Graduate Student's Association, 2030 Mackay Street
Time: 7 p.m.

October 20th Mélange Magique's Samhain Ritual & Party
Ritual organized by staff members (free entrance) and party (there will be a fee for the party itself). For more information, check out their web site at: www.themagicalblend.com/tenthanniversary.html
Location: the space above the Mélange Magique, 1928 Ste-Catherine Ouest

****October 24th Samhain Fair****
CUPS's annual fair- there will be vendors of jewelry & Pagan items as well as various tarot readers and fortune tellers.
Location: Mezzanine, Hall Building
Time: Day-long event (9 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
Samhain Ritual (following Fair, time TBA)

October 26th Samhain Ball
Come celebrate the Celtic New Year! The Montreal Pagan Grove will be hosting it's 2nd Samhain Ball. A wonderful main ritual will be lead by "Le Chaudron de Cerridewen". Tickets for the Ball are 10$. For more info check out their web site at: www.montrealpagangrove.freeservers.com
Location: World Beat Cafe 1590 St. Laurent
Time: 8 p.m.

October Daze

(info from Calendar at Sigrdrifa.net, Interfaithcalendar.org, and Diversityatwork.com)

October is the tenth month in the current Gregorian calendar and second of Autumn's rule, and derives its name from the eighth month of the oldest Roman calendar, Octem.
During October, the Wheel of the Year is turned to Halloween (Samhain Eve), one of the four Great or Major holidays celebrated each year by Pagans, marking the end of the pagan year. The Norse holiday which falls this month is Winters Night, preparing for winter and the changing of the

seasons.
October in Scottish Gaelic is known as "an Damhair", the rutting of the stags. Gaelic - damh, a stag. Old Celtic - damo.
The Gaelic word for fortune comes from "that which denotes a Full Moon." The Druids believed that when the circle of the Moon was complete, good fortune was given to those who knew how to ask the gods for it.

Correspondences

Nature Spirits: Frost fairies & plant fairies
Herbs: Pennyroyal, Thyme, Catnip, Angelica & Burdock
Colors: Dark blue-green Flowers: Calendula, Marigold & Cosmos
Scents: Strawberry, Apple Blossom & Cherry
Stones: Opal, Rose Sapphire, Tourmaline, Beryl & Turquoise
Trees: Yew, Cypress & Acacia Birds: Heron, Crow & Robin
Animals: Stag, Jackal, Elephant, Ram & Scorpion
Deities: Cernunnos, Thor, Horned God & the Morrigan

October 2nd Full Moon
Sukkot (Feast of Booths): This a joyful harvest festival celebrated in Judaism and lasting 9 days. A little hut called sukkah is built outdoors where families eat to remember the time Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years, sleeping and eating under stars.

October 8th
Columbus Day: Celebrated in the U.S.A., this is the anniversary of Christopher Columbus' discovery of the New World.

Thanksgiving: Early Canadian settlers gave thanks for good harvests by decorating their churches with fruits and vegetables and celebrated dinner with venison and waterfowl.

October 9th
Shemini Atzeret: On the 8th day of Sukkot, special prayers for rain are offered.

October 10th
Simchat Torah: The reading of the Jewish sacred books, the Torah, is completed and begun again.

October 11th
Old Lady of the Trees: Elderberry trees play an important role in many pagan Teutonic traditions. Today honors the feminine spirit who watches over the trees, demanding that elderberry wine be poured at the base of trees that have had branches or twigs cut from them to be used in spiritual matters. This goes in line with the never ending circle of worship in Nature - .if you take from it, you must give back and pouring libation is a key way to do just that.

October 14th
Winter Nights: Winter Nights is an Asatru festival celebrating the harvest and all it yielded. Another aspect of this celebration is the honoring of Freya and the Disir. The Disir are known for a number of things, from fertility, to being wise women, seeresses, having strong intuitive aspects, healing and feminine wisdom overall. Given the fact that the Disir are the female counterpart of the Einherjar, they have a strong place of importance. While celebrating Winter Nights, bear in mind the many points of the celebration - the Harvest, Freya and her spirit and the Disir and all they stand for - to both men and women.

October 16th New Moon

October 17th
Honoring Hengest: Today is the Asatru Festival of Hengest, commemorating the 5th century settlement of Eastern Britain. Hengest and his brother Horsa went to Britain to fight against the Picts (ancient Scots). Hengest ended up ruling & the historic line of the Kings of Kent count their lineage back to him.

October 18th
Great Horn Faire: Still held in some parts of Great Britain, this faire is designated to honor the Horned God - a major figure of importance in Celtic mythology, primarily. It starts with a parade of men wearing antlers, depicting the Horned God. Although there are many names for this figure in mythology - such as Hu Gadern for the Druids, Cerunnunos by the Celts and Atho by the Welsh - his constant presence in mythos and pagan traditions can not be disputed.

October 24th
Feast of the Spirits of the Air: In some Pagan traditions, today is the Feast of the Spirits of the Air. Incense is burned in honor of the sylphs, the elemental spirits of the air. Ancient beliefs held that four elements comprised the universe, with spirits for each. The spirits of the air were sylphs, the spirits of fire were salamanders, the spirits of water were undines, and the spirits of the earth were gnomes.

October 27th
Allan Apple Day: There is a tradition in Cornwall which holds that you can divine the identity of the person you will marry by sleeping with an Allan apple beneath your pillow. Rising before dawn the following day, you must wait under a tree for the first person of the opposite sex to pass by. This person will be your future mate.

October 31st
Samhain: Samhain (pronounced "Sô-un" or "sow-en" -- not "Sam Hain") is the original festival that became "All Saints' Day," or "All Hallow's Evening," which was contracted into "Hallow-e'en," now usually called Halloween. Among other things, it is the beginning of the "Winter Half" of the Celtic year (the seasons of Geimredh & Earrach) and is known as "the Day Between Years." The day before Samhain is the last day of the old year and the day after Samhain is the first day of the new year. Being a day "between years," it is considered a very magical night, when the dead walk among the living and the veils between past, present and future may be lifted in prophecy and divination. Samhain celebrates the last harvest of the year. It is a time of endings, when the last harvest is completed. It is also a time for beginnings; we set goals which we will track through the coming year. The Dagda and The Morrigan are the Patron and Matron of this feast. The Dagda represents the bounty of the harvest, and the Morrigan represents the ending of the year.

According to legend, this is a dangerous time, when the dead and supernatural beings are abroad. A great festival & assembly was held; accounts and debts were settled, histories were brought up to date, and new laws were enacted. Folklore tells us that on this date at midnight, fishermen along the western shores ferried the dead. They would hear a rapping on their doors, and then find their boats laden with invisible passengers; then their boats were drawn to the Isle of Prydain, where they were mysteriously emptied, after which the fishermen went home. All fires were extinguished on the Eve, then at the ritual center called Tlachtga, fire was ceremonially rekindled by priests before sunrise. A pyramid of stacked timbers called the 'torc tenned" or "fire boar" was burnt, and the embers from it were tended through the year in a special hearth, and used the following year to kindle the next torc tenned. The mythos of the Celts tells us that on this day Tara is annually destroyed by Aillen Mac Midhna, a hostile fairy who set it on fire. But the hero Fionn Mac Cumhaill cuts off Aillen's head and saves the day.

Honoring the ancestors played an important role in all native religious cultures. It was believed that the world of the spirits & the ancestors could have effects, either beneficially or adversely, on the world of the living. Therefore, it was important to keep in contact with the ancestors and maintain good links between the worlds. We can see traces of this belief amongst Celtic peoples well into this century. Spend some time this holiday thinking on your fore fathers and mothers, and what they have done & what you would like to continue to do as your role in the lineage continues.

The custom of making a tumpshie' (turnip) lantern is another interesting legacy from the Celtic Feast of the Dead. The top of a large turnip is first sliced off, and the inside of the turnip is hollowed out. Then a skull-like face is carved into the turnip. When finished, a candle is placed in the center to give out an eerie light. Nowadays it has become more common to use a pumpkin, but the symbolism of the face of death, of the souls that have passed over to the other side, is still strong.

Samhain is FULL of traditions that many of us can continue, from trick or treating, to jack-o-lanterns, to divinations and fire celebration. Use this celebration as a time to honor your ancestors, enjoy your family, and make plans for the future. The dark part of the year can be a fruitful one, in and of itself, but the seeds are of a personal growth nature, and not one of a typical harvest. Come Spring, if you have used the darker half of the year well, you will be stronger, more knowledgeable and focused for the tasks at hand.

About Tidings

Tidings is a free newsletter published by the Concordia University Pagan Society (CUPS) on the last week of each month.

Announcements of interest to the Pagan community will be printed free of charge.

Submissions for upcoming issues may be made by e-mail to cups@fastmail.ca, in TEXT format, or to our postal address. Bear in mind that our publication is black & white.

Deadline for any submissions is 7 days before our monthly General Meeting.